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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 00207 120246Z

67
ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 A-01 SS-07 NSC-06 /024 W
---------- 054959
R 120218Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7240
INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0207

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FRASER VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES

WHEN PRIME MINISTER FRASER MET WITH HOLLINGS/GRIFFIN CODEL JAN 7 POSSIBLE VISIT TO U.S. WAS RAISED. SENATOR GRIFFIN SAID THAT HE HAD HAD DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE JUST BEFORE HE LEFT AND THAT HE BROUGHT THE PRESIDENT'S BEST WISHES AS WELL AS HIS HOPE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT THE U.S. SOON. FRASER SAID HE APPRECIATED THE INVITATION BUT HE HAD A POLITICAL PROBLEM. THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN ONE OF HIS THEMES HAD BEEN THAT GOUGH WHITLAM WAS A "TOURIST PRIME MINISTER" AND THAT HE HAD TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE A SIMILAR IMPRESSION. MOREOVER HE THOUGHT A PRIORITY PROBLEM WAS IN ECONOMIC POLICY. THE FEDERAL BUDGET WOULD HAVE TO BE CUT AND OTHER MEASURES TAKEN TO STEM INFLATION. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WISER FOR HIM FIRST TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISITS IN EAST ASIA, PARTICULARLY TO JAPAN AND CHINA, BEFORE GOING TO THE U.S. ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL TOO FROM THE U.S. VIEWPOINT, SINCE HE WOULD HAVE FRESH IMPRESSIONS OF THE OVERALL POLITICAL SITUATION IN EAST ASIA. CONSEQUENTLY, IT MIGHT BE A YEAR OR MORE BEFORE HE COULD VISIT THE U.S.
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Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
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